MBTA Key Bus Route Improvement Program

Community Meeting
Route 57 - Boston

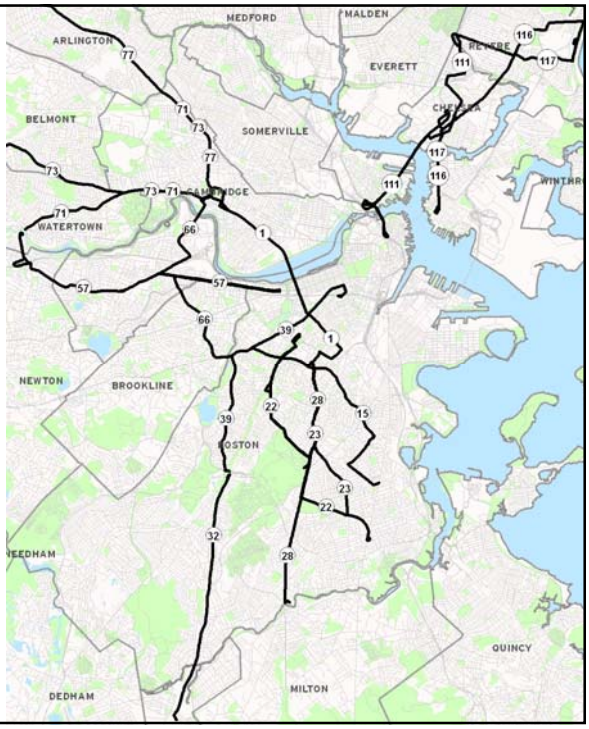
March 14, 2011
Saint Elizabeth's Medical Center,
Seton Auditorium

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Safety briefing/Accommodations
- Key Bus Route Program overview
- Existing conditions
- Recommendations
- Next Steps
- Discussion

Introduction

- 15 Key Bus Routes
- $10 million funding



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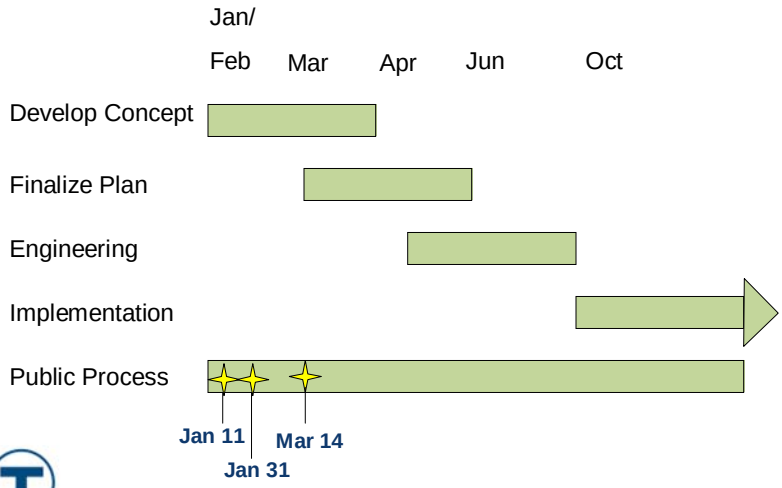
Project Schedule
Bus Route 57



Key Bus Route Goals

- **Reliability**
  - less bus bunching
- **Faster service**
  - fewer delays, less stops, shorter trip times
- **Improved accessibility**
  - for seniors and persons with disabilities
- **Passenger amenities**
  - shelters, benches, signage, trash barrels

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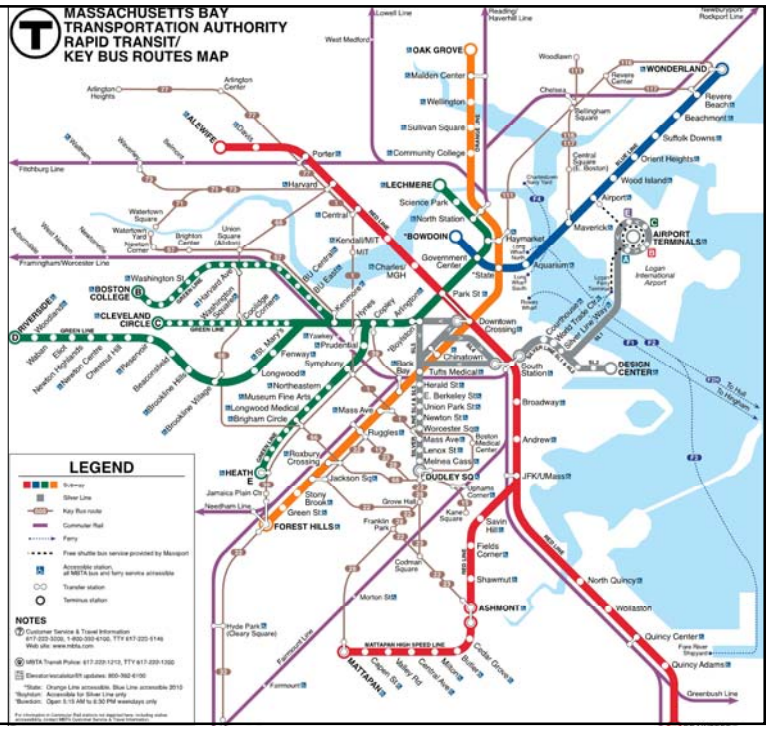
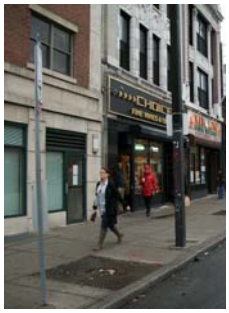
Key Bus Routes

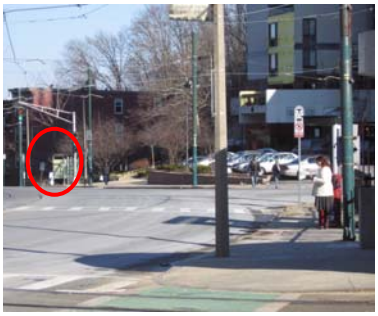


Typical Conditions

Bus stop too short



Poorly located boarding area



Bus stops too close

Signage issues

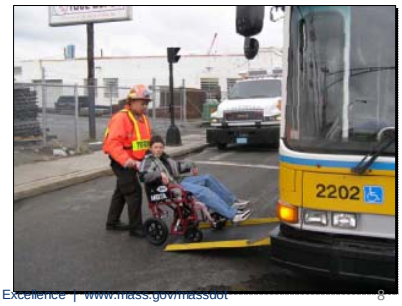
Improved Accessibility

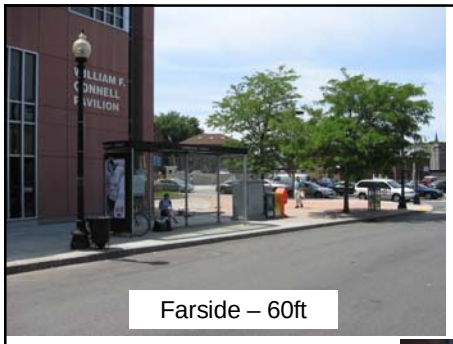
Legal Mandate

- All bus doors must open at curb
- Deter cars from parking in stops

Providing accessible curb access requires longer bus stops

- Bus Stops must meet Current Guidelines for 40' buses





Farside – 60ft

Nearside – 80ft

Required Bus Stop Lengths

Midblock (or after left hand turn) – 100ft

Reliability Issues

Good bus stop locations:

- Sufficient length to pull to the curb
- Clear boarding/alighting area
- Not blocking crosswalks or driveways
- Proper Spacing
- Considerate of adjacent traffic

Factors for Improving Stop Locations

- Ridership – customer boardings and alightings
- Proximity to schools, medical centers etc
- Distance to adjacent stops
- Reducing traffic congestion
- Parking impacts
- Potential to add amenities – shelters, benches etc.

Bus Stop Spacing

- Ideal spacing is 4 - 7 stops per mile
  (every 750-1,320 ft)
  (4-6 minutes walking distance)
- Route 57 has stops as close as 330 ft

Bus Stop Consolidation

<u>Benefits</u>

- Shortens bus trip times
- Improves service reliability
- Minimizes “stop & go” experience
- Provides additional parking spaces
- Ability to provide better stop amenities

Traffic Signal Improvements

Improved Amenities

Shelters

Trash receptacles

Schedule tubes

Benches

Pavement markings

Improving Customer Information

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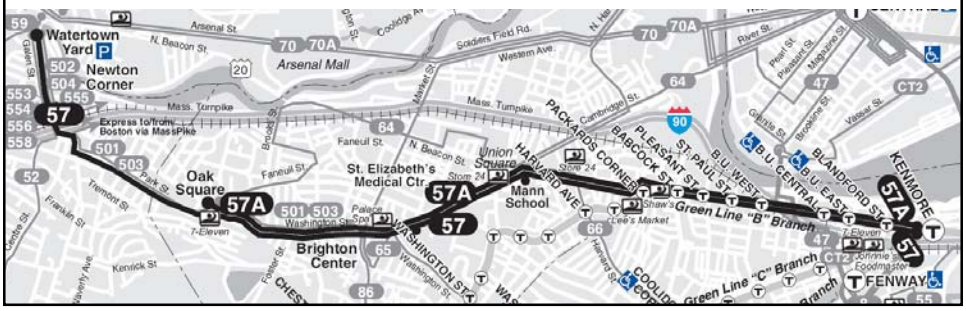
Route 57: Overview

massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Rail & Transit Division

- Watertown Yard / Oak Sq to Kenmore Sta
  - Via Newton Cnr, Brighton Ctr, Union Sq & Packard's Cnr.
  - BU, Agganis Arena, Fenway Park, St. Elizabeth's Medical Center
- 5.7 miles long
  - Run Time Varies by Time of Day (approx. 22-36 min)
- Connects to:
  - Green Line & 17 Bus Routes
  - KBR – 66, 71



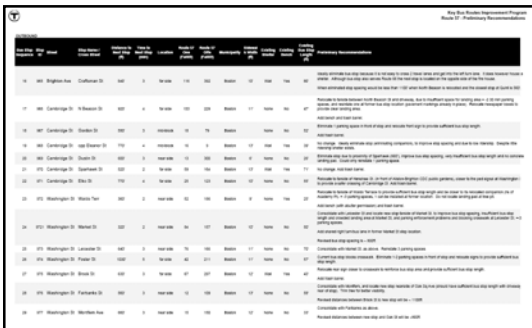
Route 57: Overview

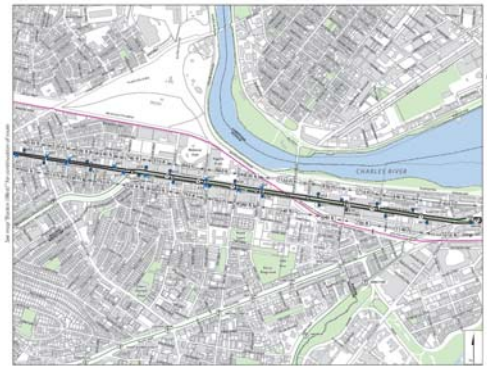
- MBTA's 5th Busiest Route
  - Over 11,500 daily boardings
- Peak Hour Headways
  - Every 6-10 minutes
- On-Time Performance
  - 71% weekdays

Source: MBTA's 2008 Biennial Service Plan

- 86 stops — 44 Inbound (to Kenmore); 42 Outbound (to Watertown)

Preliminary Recommendations





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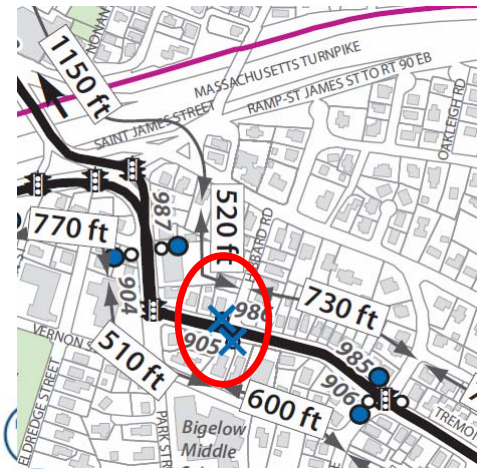
Park St @ Elmwood St

Retain IB and OB stops; lengthen stops; add amenities.

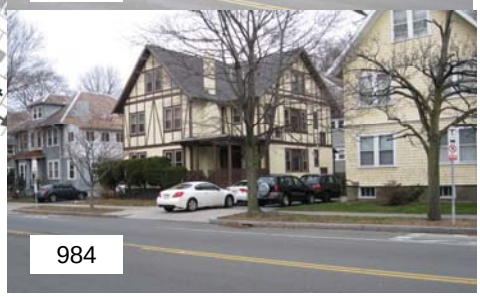
Park St @ Hibbard Rd

Remove IB and OB stops.



Tremont St @ Marlboro St

Eliminate inbound/outbound stops



Tremont St @ Cufflin St

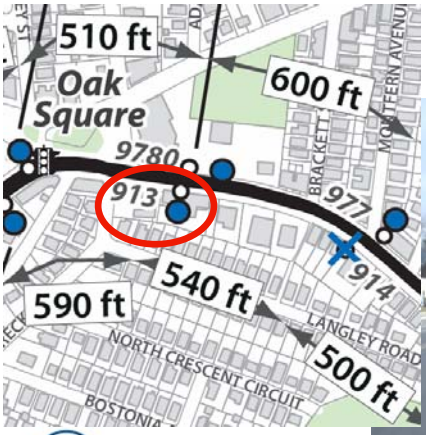
Relocate farside of Cufflin St and add a concrete landing pad.

Tremont St @ Tip Top

Remove stops to improve bus stop spacing and due to insufficient bus stop length.

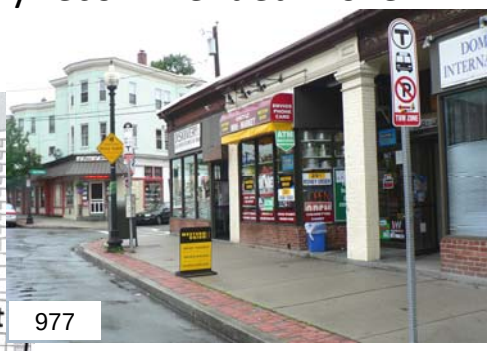
Washington St @ Breck Ave

Install shelter, bench, trash barrel



Washington St @ Montfern Ave

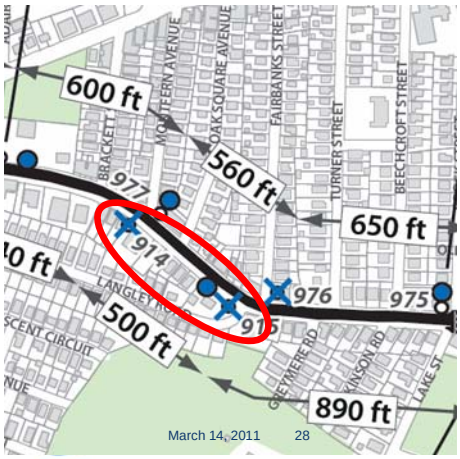
Retain OB stop (previously recommended move to Oak Sq Ave).

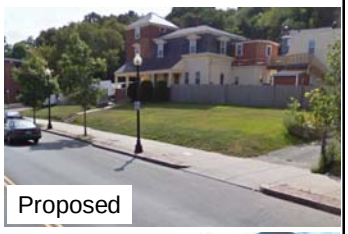


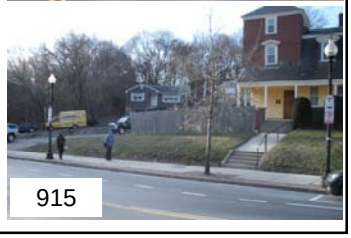
Washington St opp Montfern Ave

Consolidate with Langley Rd

IB to new stop location between Langley Rd and Oak Sq Ave.

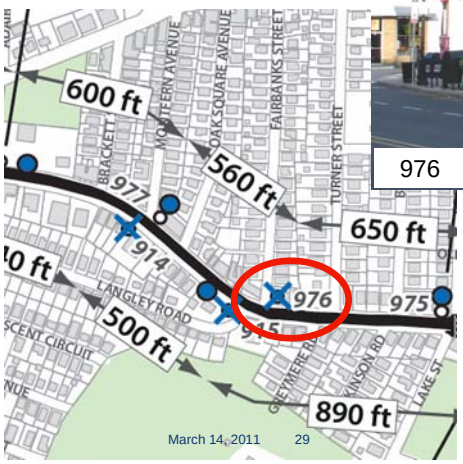






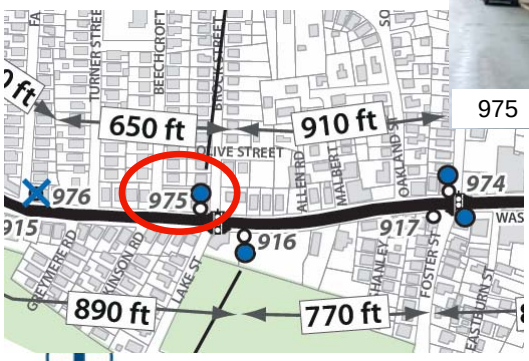
Washington St @ Fairbanks St

Remove OB stop.



Washington St @ Brock St

Lengthen stop. Add trash receptacle.



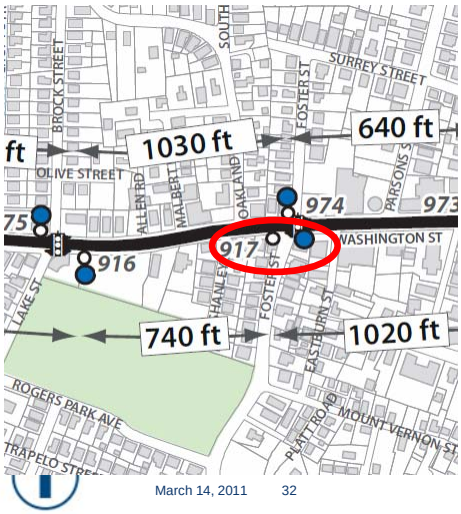
Washington St @ Lake St/Brock St

Consider shared bus/right turn lane for the westbound (OB) approach, and a bus queue jump lane for the eastbound (IB) approach.

* Note that Lake Street/Brock Street operates as a one-way street northbound.

Washington St @ Foster St IB

Relocate farside (or to Post Office). Add amenities.
Consider shared bus/right turn lane.

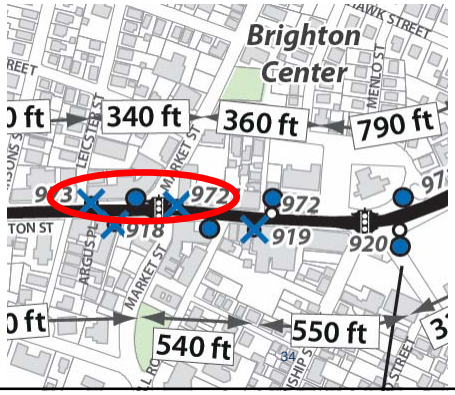


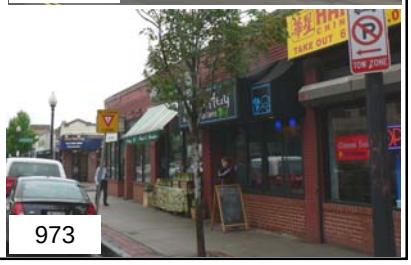
Washington St @ Foster St IB

Relocate farside (or to Post Office). Add amenities. Consider shared bus/right turn lane.

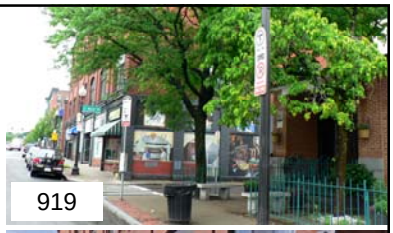
Washington St @ Market St & Leicester St.

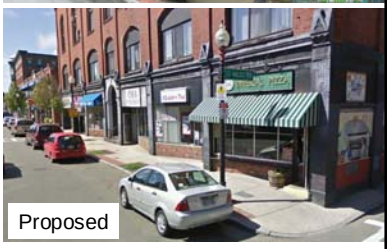
Consolidate at Market St farside. Add shared right turn/ bus lane in former Market St stop location.

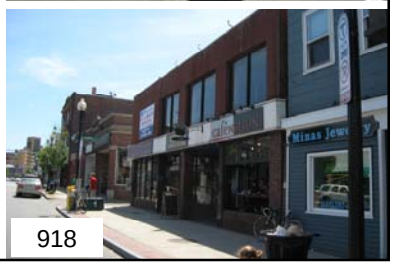




Washington St @ Market/ Academy Hill. Consolidate IB stop with Baldwin Place. Add bench (with abutter permission) & trash receptacle.

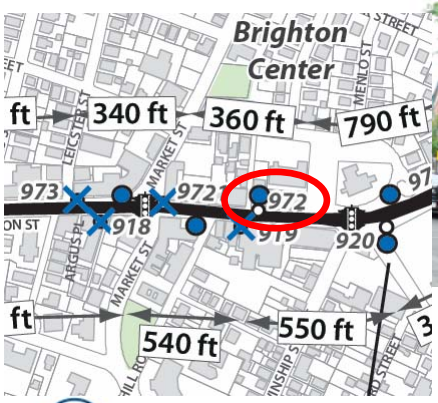






Washington St @ Waldo Terr OB

Retain stop.



Cambridge St @ Warren St IB

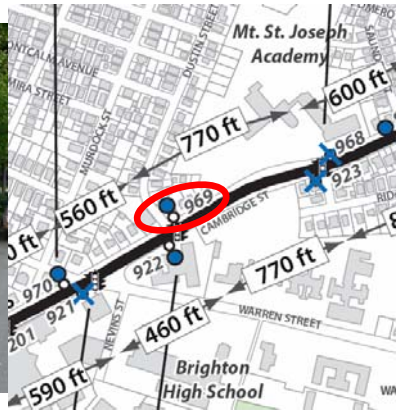
Remove stop to improve bus stop spacing.

Cambridge St @ Warren St

Consider shared bus/right turn lane for the westbound (OB) approach.

Cambridge St @ Dustin St.

Retain OB stop.

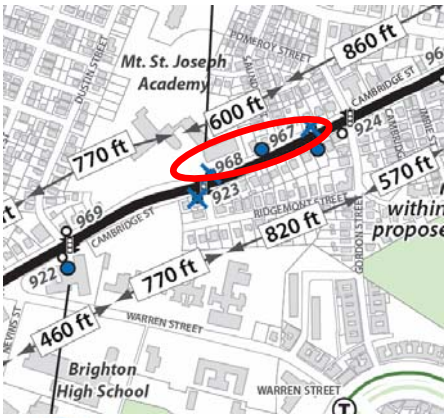


Cambridge St @ Eleanor St

Remove IB stop due to low ridership and to improve bus stop spacing.

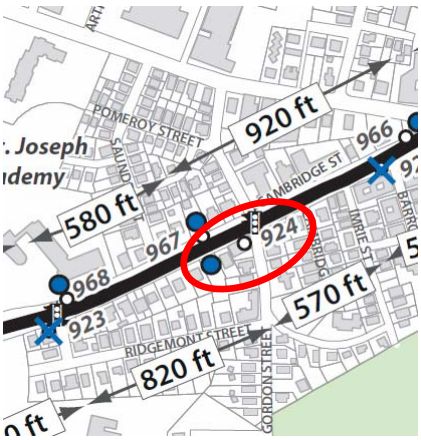
Cambridge St @ Eleanor St

Consolidate with Saunders St to farside Saunders St OB.



Cambridge St @ Gordon St IB

Relocate stop back from intersection.



Overlap with Rte 66 Bus Stops

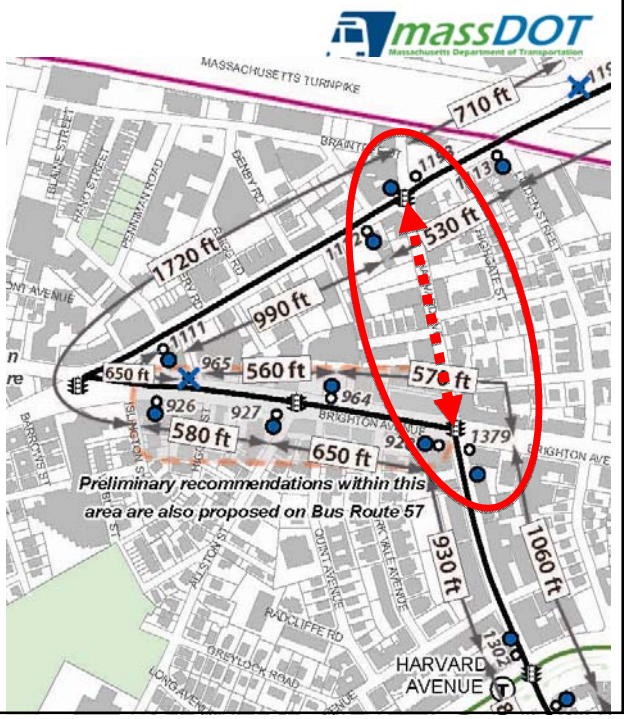
Preliminary recommendations within this area are also proposed on Bus Route 66

March 8, 2011

Rte 66 Union Square Loop

1,406 boardings
10% ridership

Overall
time savings

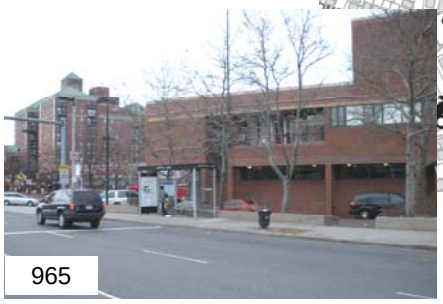


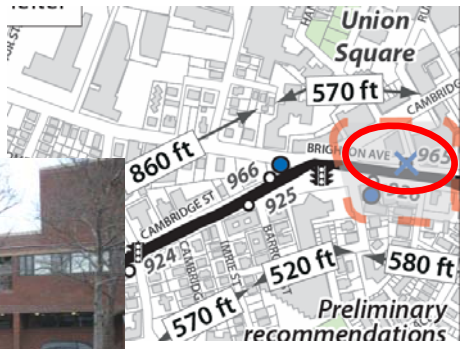
Brighton Ave. @ Cambridge IB

Add curb extension if permission to add a shelter. Add benches with abutter permission.

Brighton Ave @ Craftsman St

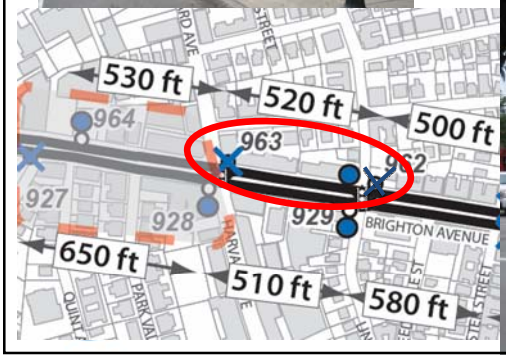
Remove stop due to low ridership and proximity of next stop





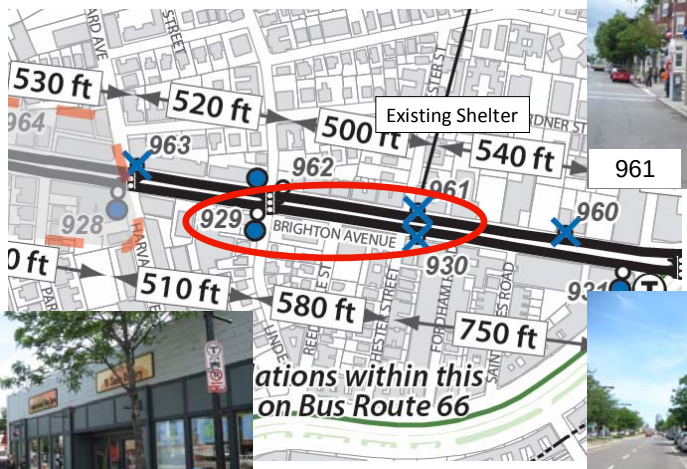
Brighton Ave @ Harvard/Linden

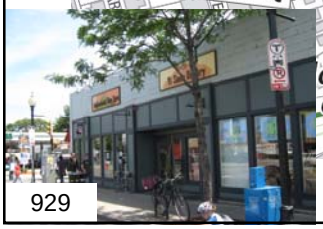
Consolidate to far side Linden

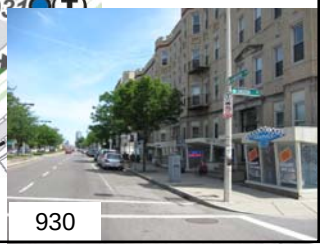


Brighton Ave @ Linden/Chester St

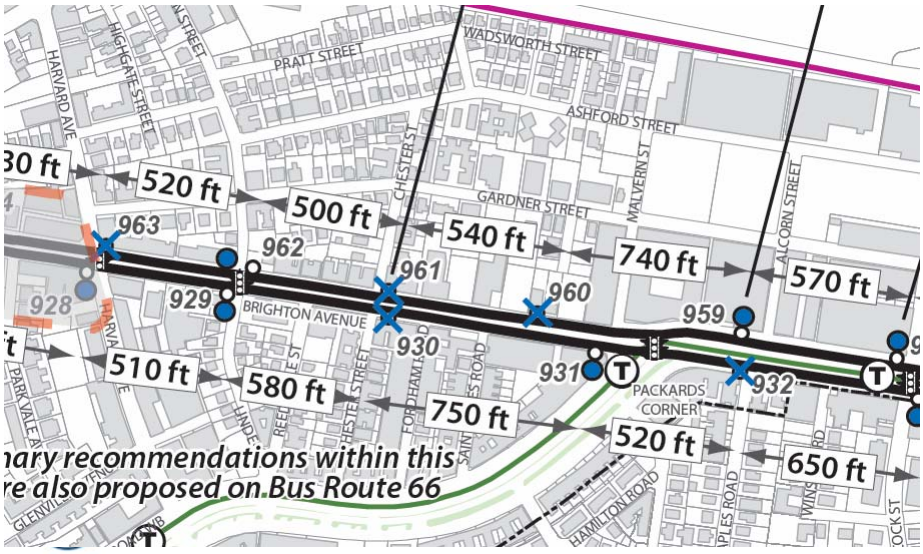
Retain Linden St Stops; remove Chester St stops.





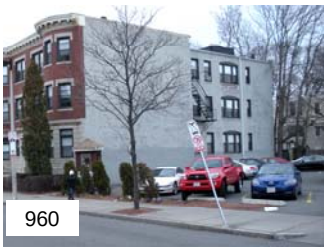


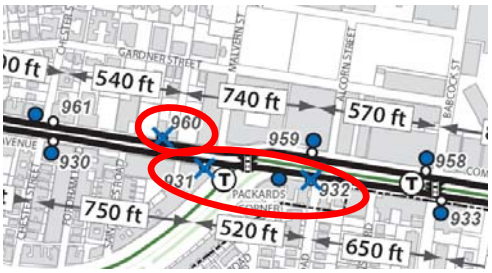
Linden St to Packards Corner

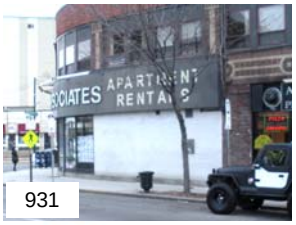


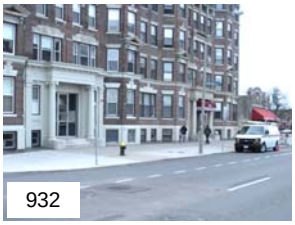
Packards Corner?

Consolidate inbound stops and remove outbound stop to improve spacing and provide amenities.



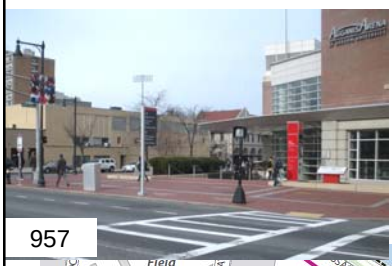


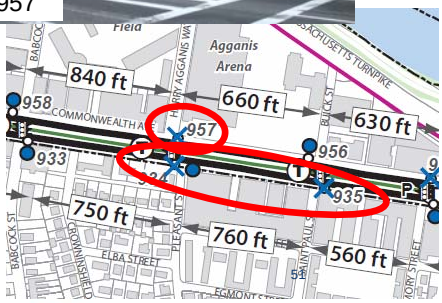




Comm Ave @ Agganis/Pleasant

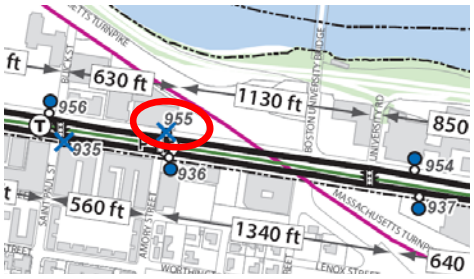
Consolidate IB with St Paul add amenities. Remove OB stop





Comm Ave @ Armory St

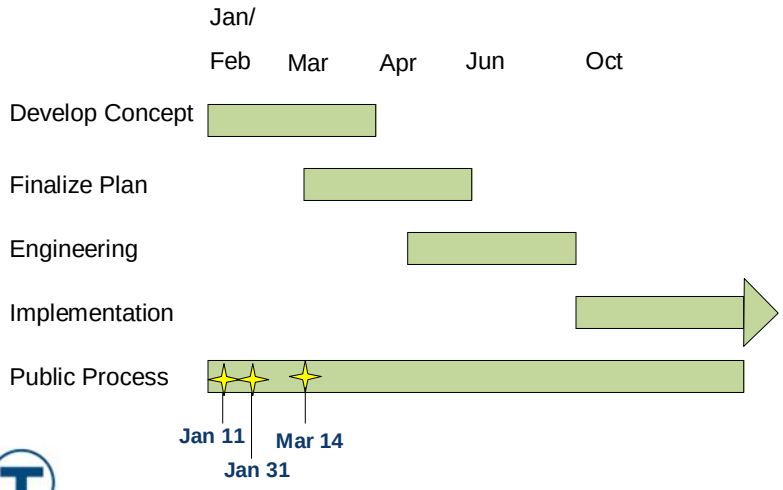
Remove stop due to low ridership and proximity of next stop



Summary of Preliminary Recommendations

- Add benches, trash receptacles, pavement markings, shelters
- Stops lengthened for accessibility
- Stops relocated
- Stops Consolidated
  - Current Stop Plan 44 IB/42 OB
  - Proposed Stop Plan 30 IB/28 OB
- Investigating traffic signal improvements
- Sidewalk Improvements

Project Schedule Bus Route 57



Public Outreach

March 14, 2011

March 14, 2011

Overall Project Schedule

KEY BUS ROUTE	MUNICIPALITIES SERVED	PLANNING BEGINS
23	Boston	Underway
39	Boston	Underway
1	Boston/Cambridge	January 2011
57	Boston/Newton/Watertown	January 2011
66	Boston/Brookline/Cambridge	January 2011
111	Boston/Chelsea/Revere	February 2011
116/117	Boston/Chelsea/Revere	February 2011
71	Cambridge/Watertown	March 2011
73	Cambridge/Belmont	March 2011
77	Arlington/Cambridge	March 2011
15	Boston	April 2011
22	Boston	April 2011
28	Boston	Ongoing in coordination with RDM Transit Needs Study
32	Boston	April 2011

Comments and Next Steps

- Project Updates at www.mbta.com/keybusroutes
- Mail to Operations and Service Development, 45 High St, Boston, MA 02110
- Email to keybusroutes@mbta.com
- **Next community meeting**
- Discussion

Discussion

We want to hear from you!